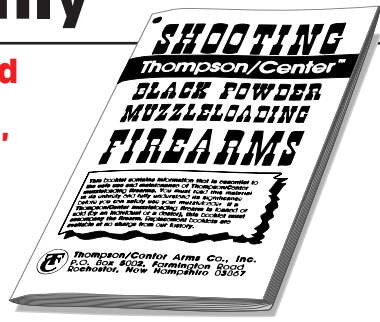
T/C Patriot Use & Loading Supplement

Suggested Black Powder & Pyrodex® Loads For The T/C Patriot

Note: This Model is Out of Production.
For Reference Use Only.

Muzzleloading Pistol Only

Read and Understand the booklet entitled, "Shooting Thompson/Center Black Powder Muzzleloading Firearms," Before Using This Muzzleloading Pistol.



Thompson/Center Arms Company, Inc.
PO Box 5002, Rochester, NH 03866

This booklet contains information that is essential to the safe use and maintenance of Thompson/Center's Patriot Muzzleloading Pistol. You must read this material in its entirety and fully understand its significance before you can safely use your muzzleloader. If a Thompson/Center muzzleloading firearm is loaned or sold (by an individual or a dealer), this booklet must accompany the firearm. Replacement booklets are available at no charge from our factory.

If, after reading this booklet, you still have questions concerning the safe use of your Thompson/Center firearm, write or call our Customer Service Department at:

Thompson/Center Arms Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 5002
Rochester, New Hampshire 03866
Telephone: 1-603-332-2333

• And Remember •
The Fundamental
National Rifle Association
Rules for Safe Gun Handling Are:

1 - Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2 - Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3 - Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

- WARNING -

Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm and other serious physical injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.

Suggested Loads For The Thompson/Center Patriot Muzzleloading Pistol Only

⚠ WARNING

If you have not read this manual in its entirety, do so before attempting to load your firearm. Improper loading and use of your firearm can cause injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property

The charts in this loading supplement show recommended charges for Thompson/Center's Patriot Pistol Only. Charges are listed by caliber, and charge of Black Powder or Pyrodex.

Note that in each instance a series of charges are listed. More than one charge is shown in each category to clearly illustrate the safe loading range for the particular caliber and projectile.

⚠ WARNING

Maximum loads are not to be exceeded nor is a substitution of powder or granulations to be attempted! Only use loads that are listed for your particular caliber, model and bullet style. Failure to follow these instructions may result in injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

The shooter is instructed to start with the lightest charge listed. As you become familiar with the firearm, increase your charges gradually until you reach your best performing load (most accurate). Thompson/Center Arms is not responsible for loading information printed in sources other than this booklet.

NOTE: All loading data contained in this book is the result of testing by Thompson/ Center Arms. Testing was done under carefully controlled conditions with the components specified in the text.

Since Thompson/Center has no control over the components or equipment which may be used with this information, no responsibility is implied or assumed for the results obtained.

Thompson/Center Patriot Muzzleloading Pistol Supplement

CHARGING YOUR MUZZLE LOADING PISTOL CAN BE DANGEROUS. STUDY THIS PHOTO CAREFULLY BEFORE PROCEEDING.

ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AWAY FROM YOURSELF AND BYSTANDERS.
BARREL CLAMP
PORTION OF BACK CUT AWAY TO ALLOW CLEARANCE FOR REAR SIGHT AND HAMMER
BUTT STOP HOLDS BUTT SECTION
SCREW OR CLAMP STAND TO SHOOTING BENCH

Due to its shorter overall length, a muzzle loading pistol is potentially more dangerous than a rifle or shotgun. A pistol is more difficult to hold securely while loading. Used carelessly, a pistol can be more easily dropped or knocked about and its short barrel length affords the muzzle dangerous movement.

We strongly recommend that you build or purchase the loading stand pictured in this photograph and that you use it in conjunction with a bench or table as shown in this booklet. The Patriot Loading Stand is available from the factory in kit or finished form.

Keep all reserve powder and caps well away from the firearm when loading and firing the Patriot Pistol. Wear shooting glasses and ear protectors. Stand well forward of all spectators when firing to ensure that they are not struck by particles of flying caps. Use Black Powder or Pyrodex only and do not over charge.

This supplemental booklet contains specific information regarding the charging and priming of the Thompson/Center Patriot Muzzleloading Pistol.

The primary Owners Manual for traditional T/C muzzleloading firearms (Shooting Thompson/Center Black Powder Muzzleloading Firearms) must be read and fully understood before attempting to use your Patriot muzzleloading pistol.

⚠ WARNING

Do not assume that a familiarity with other firearms has equipped you with a knowledge of "safe gun handling", as these words apply to the T/C Patriot Muzzleloading Pistol. Each gun is different, and functions differently. The user is responsible for practicing "safe gun handling" at all times. Failure to follow these instructions can cause injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

Charging & Priming Your T/C Patriot Muzzleloading Pistol

⚠ WARNING

Never use smokeless powder of any type or in any quantity in a muzzleloading firearm, and never mix powders. The use of any smokeless powder could result in a detonation or explosion which could cause injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

The Patriot Pistol was designed specifically for target shooting. Thompson/Center does not recommend that this pistol be used for hunting nor do we recommend that the Patriot Pistol be carried in any manner while charged or primed.

This pistol is intended for use with a patched round lead ball. While loaded in much the same manner as a cap lock rifle, the pistol uses Black Powder or Pyrodex charges which are considerably lighter than those used in a rifle. A special T/C Black Powder Measure (No.7220) which adjusts from 20 grains to 60 grains is available for use with this pistol.

Study the photo on the previous page and read all the captions before you proceed to charge your pistol.

Before charging, insert the ramrod into the barrel and tap it up and down several times. You should hear the metal end of the ramrod "clink" as it contacts the steel face of the breech plug. Note exactly how far the ramrod extends beyond the muzzle when the barrel is uncharged. Commit this exercise to memory and practice it every time you handle a muzzleloading firearm; Before you attempt to load it - before you store it away - before you hand it to a friend or leave it unattended - always check to ensure that the firearm is uncharged.

Commence by wiping the bore free of oil. Be meticulous with your cleaning - as the presence of any amount of oil in the barrel can dampen the powder charge and cause the pistol to misfire or hangfire. Point the muzzle in a safe direction and snap several No.11 percussion caps on the nipple. This will help to ensure positive ignition by clearing away any oil that may have accumulated in the ignition channel. Note that the triggers on the Patriot Pistol operate differently from those on T/C muzzleloading rifles (see trigger information in the latter part of this section).

For safety reasons and to facilitate loading we recommend the use of a wooden fixture to hold the pistol securely during the loading process. This fixture need not be elaborate but it must be secure - locking the pistol firmly in an upright position (at bench height) as shown.

Pull the rear trigger to ensure that the trigger is not set. Place the hammer in half-cock position and clamp the pistol in your loading stand as pictured in this information. Choose the lightest load listed for your particular caliber. Set your adjustable powder measure to the desired charge and fill it with FFFG (Triple "F") Black Powder or "P" Pyrodex granular powder.

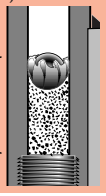
As loading consistency is the secret to accuracy, be certain that your powder measure is filled exactly the same each time and that all of the powder enters the muzzle as you pour it into the barrel. After pouring in the charge, tap the pistol barrel lightly with the empty measure to settle the powder into the breech area. Next, center the lubricated cloth patch over the muzzle, ensuring that the weave of the cloth is placed in the same direction for each loading - as this too leads to consistency. Place the ball on top of the patch - being certain that the sprue mark (flat section on the cast ball) is in the "up" position and carefully centered.

Start the ball into the barrel with the stubby end of the ball/bullet starter. A properly patched round ball will require considerable pressure and start suddenly. Once the ball is started, use the long end of the bullet starter (or use a ramrod) to push the ball the remainder of the way down the barrel and to seat it firmly against the powder charge as illustrated in Photo "A".

→ ⚠ WARNING ←

Never fire a muzzleloader unless you are sure the projectile is firmly seated on the powder charge and the ramrod has been removed from the bore. Shooters should bear in mind that the muzzleloading projectile is not crimped into position as is the fixed cartridge projectile. If a projectile does not fit tightly then jarring or movement of the firearm can cause it to move forward. If the firearm is fired when a projectile is forward or off the powder charge, or the ramrod is still in the bore, then the projectile or ramrod may act as a bore obstruction. This can cause a ruptured or burst barrel. A ruptured or burst barrel may cause injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property. If, due to fouling, a bullet or ball becomes lodged part way down the barrel, the firearm must be disassembled and the charge removed. See section on "Cleaning". Also see section on "Pulling a Charge".

PHOTO A
Start the ball with the stubby end of the Bullet Starter. A tight fitting combination will load smartly. Never attempt to start the ball with the ramrod. Used improperly the ramrod will break and possibly injure your hand.



Seat the ball firmly against the powder charge but do not pound on it. As stressed previously, uniformity is important. To achieve accuracy, the ball should be loaded and seated with the same pressure shot after shot. After loading the first powder charge and patched round ball - the ramrod should be carefully marked with a reference mark to ensure that each succeeding load is seated to the same depth. See Photo "B".

PHOTO B
Mark the ramrod at the muzzle. Use a marking pencil to mark the ramrod. This will allow you to ensure that each ball is seated to the same depth. Erase and remark each time you adjust the charge or change projectiles. when you arrive at the desired charge, cut a clean notch in the ramrod so you will have a permanent reference mark. This reference mark will serve as an indicator only with the charge and projectile used when it was marked. When the charge and/or projectile change, the reference mark will also change.

Priming Your Charged Patriot Pistol

⚠WARNING

Do not prime the firearm until you are actually ready to fire and you have double checked to ensure that the ramrod has been removed from the barrel. Thompson/Center does not recommend priming the pistol until the instant before actual firing. Carrying a charged primed firearm and relying upon the safety mechanism can be dangerous. Accidental discharge is a constant hazard which, if it occurs, can cause injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

If you have followed the preceding instructions, your muzzleloading pistol will now be charged with Black Powder or Pyrodex and a patched round lead ball will be firmly seated against the powder charge as illustrated here. Your ramrod will be marked to the exact seating depth ensuring that all following projectiles are seated in the same manner. The hammer of your Patriot will be in the half-cock position.

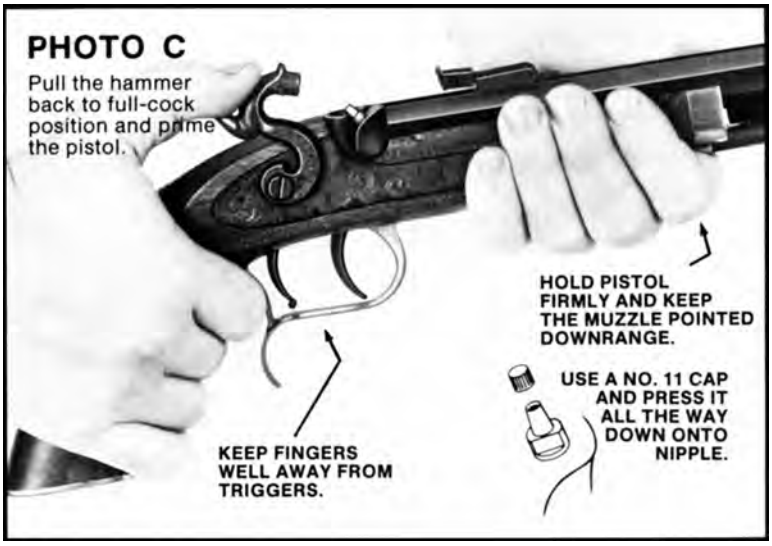


PHOTO C
Pull the hammer back to full-cock position and prime the pistol.
HOLD PISTOL FIRMLY AND KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED DOWNRANGE.
USE A NO. 11 CAP AND PRESS IT ALL THE WAY DOWN ONTO NIPPLE.
KEEP FINGERS WELL AWAY FROM TRIGGERS.

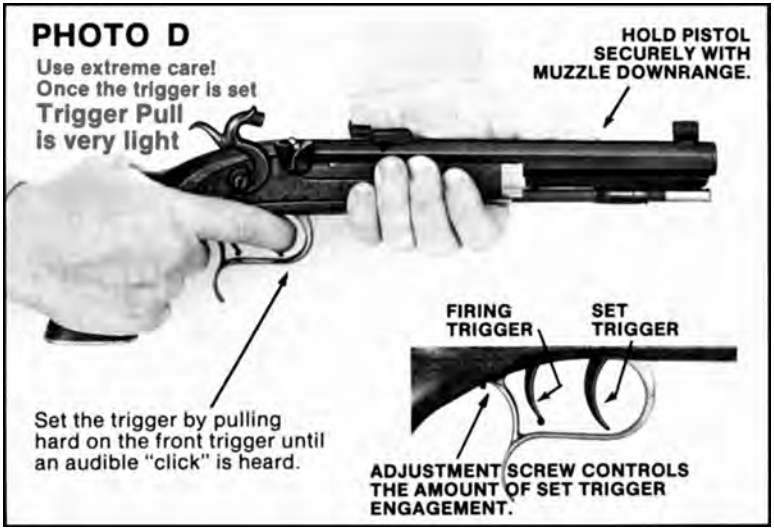
When you are ready to fire, carefully remove the pistol from the loading stand. Hold the pistol firmly, with the muzzle pointed downrange as shown in Photo "C". Pull the hammer all the way back into the full-cocked position. Prime the pistol by pressing a No.11 percussion cap onto the nipple. "Set" the trigger in the manner described in the Photo "D" captions (also read the the section here labeled "Setting the Patriot Trigger).

Raise the Pistol and Fire the Shot!

If you decide not to fire, remove the cap from the nipple. Use a suitable decapping tool like T/C's Decapper. Hold your thumb on the hammer so that it can not drop freely and pull the trigger. Allow the hammer to move forward slowly until it rests on the nipple. Return the hammer to half-cock position.

Setting The Patriot Trigger

The Patriot Pistol is equipped with a double-set trigger that functions differently from the triggers used on Thompson/Center muzzleloading rifles. First, the Patriot trigger must be set in order to fire the pistol (double-set triggers on T/C rifles function either as single stage or double set). Secondly, the front trigger on the Patriot is the set trigger, the rear trigger is the firing trigger (see Photo "D") - T/C muzzleloading rifle triggers function in the reverse order.



⚠ WARNING

Before charging or capping your Patriot Pistol, study the function of the trigger mechanism carefully. With the pistol uncharged and unprimed and the hammer in the half-cock position, pull hard on the front trigger (one closest to the muzzle). As the trigger "sets" an audible "click" will be heard. At this point, only light pressure on the rear trigger will cause the sear to release. Accidental discharge is a constant hazard which, if it occurs, can cause injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

NOTE: It is not necessary to fully cock the hammer to test the function of the set trigger mechanism. Cocking the hammer and "dry-firing" the Patriot will result in damage to the nipple and/or hammer.

Suggested Black Powder and Pyrodex® Loads for the Patriot Pistol

The following chart shows recommended charges for the Thompson/Center Patriot Pistol. A series of charges are shown to clearly illustrate the safe loading range for the particular caliber.

⚠ WARNING

Maximum loads are not to be exceeded nor is a substitution of powder or granulations to be attempted! Only use loads that are listed for your particular caliber, model and bullet style. Failure to follow these instructions may result in injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

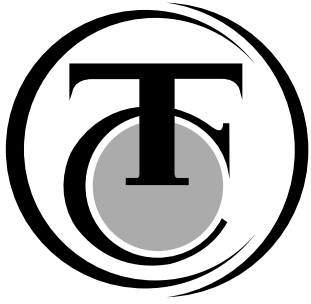
The shooter is instructed to start with the lightest charge listed. As you become familiar with the firearm, increase your charges gradually until you reach your best performing load (most accurate). The large asterisk in the chart indicates the charge that proved to be most accurate in our testing. Your optimum charge will be at or near this point. Thompson/Center Arms is not accountable for loading information printed in sources other than this booklet.

Load Charts for the Patriot Pistol

For Use With .36 Caliber Patriot .350" Diameter Pure Lead Round Ball Patches Lubricated with Bore Butter #11 Percussion Cap		.36 Caliber Patriot Black Powder & Round Ball Loads
.350" Diameter Lead Ball Weight (Grains)	Black Powder Charge (Grains)	Muzzle Velocity (Feet Per Second)
65 Grain Lead Ball	20 grs. FFG	1182 F.P.S.
	25 grs. FFG	1223 F.P.S.
	30 grs. FFG	1282 F.P.S.
	35 grs. FFG	1343 F.P.S.
Load Shown in Red is Maximum		

For Use With .45 Caliber Patriot .440" Diameter Pure Lead Round Ball Patches Lubricated with Bore Butter #11 Percussion Cap		.45 Caliber Patriot Black Powder & Round Ball Loads
.440" Diameter Lead Ball Weight (Grains)	Black Powder Charge (Grains)	Muzzle Velocity (Feet Per Second)
127 Grain Lead Ball	20 grs. FFG	853 F.P.S.
	25 grs. FFG	908 F.P.S.
	30 grs. FFG	963 F.P.S.
	35 grs. FFG	1071 F.P.S.
Load Shown in Red is Maximum		

Loads For The T/C Patriot Muzzleloading Pistol Only



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